

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 2-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 3, and 6-8 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 9-14 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 3-8 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner alleges that the subject matter of claim 2 is not described in the specification in such a manner as to enable one skilled in the relevant art to make and/or use the invention. Accordingly, the Applicant has canceled claim 2. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-8 based on 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0200660 to Pennella et al. (hereinafter "Pennella"). Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as indicated above. In view of the amendment, reconsideration of claims 1 and 3-8 is respectfully requested.

Pennella is directed to a razor assembly that includes a razor cartridge and one or more razor blades, a shaving aid body, a handle and a linkage pivotally connected to the handle. The linkage is connected to the razor cartridge and the shaving aid body such that the razor cartridge and the shaving aid body are movable relative to the handle. The specific embodiment which the Examiner cites (Fig. 27) includes a first leg attached to the shaving aid body and a second leg attached to the razor cartridge, and a center link pivotally attaching the first and second legs thereto. The center link is pivotally mounted on an axle attached to the handle.

The Examiner alleges that the Pennella reference includes a linkage having at least one first link (234), at least one second link (232), and at least one pivot link (236), the razor cartridge being attached to the first link, the shaving aid body being attached to the second link, the first and second links being pivotally attached to the handle, and the pivot link being pivotally attached to the handle at a first point (240), to the first link at a

second point (236b), and to the second link (corner 236a). The reference numerals highlighted in parentheses above correspond to those marked up on Figure 27 by the Examiner and enclosed with the Office Action.

Unlike claim 1, the Pennella reference does not disclose the first link having a first pivot end, the second link having a second pivot end, the first and second pivot ends being pivotally attached to the handle and pivotable about a first axis extending through the first and second pivot ends, and the pivot link being pivotally attached to the handle and pivotable about a second axis. Instead, the Pennella reference shows one axle attached to the handle to which the center link is pivotally mounted. The first and second legs are pivotally mounted to the handle about the same axle. The Examiner claims that the first and second legs described in the Pennella reference are pivotally mounted to the handle but, unlike claim 1 of the present application, Pennella does not disclose the pivot link being pivotable about a second axis.

Because Pennella fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the first link having a first pivot end, the second link having a second pivot end, the first and second pivot ends being pivotally attached to the handle and pivotable about a first axis extending through the first and second pivot ends, and the pivot link being pivotally attached to the handle and pivotable about a second axis, as recited in amended claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Pennella reference. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Dependent claims, by definition, further define the subject matter of the independent claims from which they depend. Because claims 3-8 depend from claim 1, claims 3-8 add recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 1. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, claims 3-8 are therefore also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 3-8 be withdrawn.

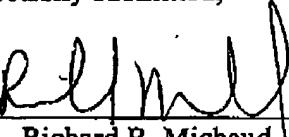
Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


Richard R. Michaud
Registration No. 40,088
Attorney for Applicants

Michaud-Duffy Group LLP
306 Industrial Park Road, Suite 206
Middletown, CT 06457-1532
Tel: (860) 632-7200
Fax: (860) 632-8269